

SOUTH AMERICA.

We have by way of England news from Rio Janeiro of July 2; Bahia, July 7, and Pernambuco 13th. At Rio coffee was slightly improved. Flour in short supply, and higher prices demanded, but business limited. Exchange on London, 2/4. A squadron of British gun-boats had arrived at Rio, en-route for China. At Pernambuco prices of sugar continued high. Produce unchanged. Freight nominal.

AMUSEMENTS.

THE MARSH CHILDREN.—These youthful celebrities have been for a number of weeks performing at Laura Keane's Theater, during which time they have appeared in a variety of plays and other entertainments. We confess, that in spite of the prestige of various "infant phenomena," if our critical readers will excuse the English lull, we have never been able to realize the ability of mere children to perform, with any reasonable degree of acceptability, tragedies and comedies written for and only fitted for the comprehension of older people. To you, O admirers of the juvenile prodigy, we acknowledge, and we will try to bear patiently, the inevitable depreciation of ourselves in your good opinion, that we have never been able to "sit golden" "Parthenia," "The Denouncer," "The Golden Farmer," "Black-Eyed Susan," "The Toodles," and kindred pieces as performed by the Marsh Children. Our experience of theatricals has taught us to believe that comprehension of passions and emotions is desirable, if not absolutely requisite to the representations of the said passions, &c., upon the stage. "Hence we view," as Mr. Chadband would say, that if a person who has had no experience of love, revenge, hate, jealousy, and other matters of great moment which agitate sometimes the majority of souls, attempts to describe by narrative, or by dramatic action, the workings of those various moving powers, that person is certain to make a lamentable failure of it. In our humble opinion the proper performance of "Black-Eyed Susan" by the Marsh Children is not a whit more impossible than the fitting representation by them of the "Orestes" of Euripides, or the "Eumenides" of Eschylus, in the original Greek.

It is with feelings of sadness that we regard these exceedingly clever children, whenever we see them attempting to do things so palpably impossible as many dramas they attempt, by the injudicious enforcement of asping parents or ambitious managers. To see a twelve-year-old "William" sentenced to death by a ten-year-old "Admiral," for striking his superior officer of about eight and a half, would, we conceive, be ridiculous, if it were not sad. The spectacle of a child of seven years mimicking the drunken antics of "Toodles," may provoke laughter; but we fancy the mirth is only evoked from those who have no children of their own, and that the judicious parent will mourn rather than be merry. Youngsters learn very enough in the natural way, without a special education by people who should know better, for the purpose of teaching them phrases of vagabondism naturally beyond their tender years. We therefore object to, and hereby enter our protest on sentimental grounds, as lovers of young children, against such exhibitions; and we further enter our critical protest with earnestness and severity against such mutilations of the real intent of authors as must certainly occur when the words of those authors are spoken by persons who have no appreciation of their meaning. A love-lorn maiden of eight years, and a guilty miser of twelve! Why, we shall soon be treated to a "Hamlet" of six and a "Ghost" of four, with a gray beard descending to his tiny waist, prating of "a foul crime done in my days of nature." However, "Hamlet" has not been yet underlined, so we live in humble hope.

But there is a class of dramas that can be performed by children immeasurably better than by grown men and women—dramas that can be perfectly understood by them, for they are founded upon those beautiful fairy tales and magic land stories with which all properly educated children are delighted in babyhood, and from which they get their first ideas of poetry and romance; and their earliest notions of justice date from the time when they learned to cherish an undying love for the wronged and injured princess, and an implacable hate for the bad and cruel king, who is always—or what child's innate sense of the proprieties would be satisfied?—comfortably done up and finished at the last.

That most beautiful of fairy stories and earliest of childhood's literary delights, "Cinderella," that other joy of loving children, "Beauty and the Beast," and the more modern German tale, "The Naiad Queen," with several others, have all been dramatized in such form as to make them most acceptable when played by children. Older people seldom outgrow their taste for the stories of their early youth, and it is fully as grateful to them as to the youngest of their descendants to witness the slaying of the dragon and the victory of the daring knight, or the discomfiture of the wrinkled witch, and the ultimate triumph of the handsome young prince with his beautiful bride. Dig down under the crust which the ways of the world and the wickedness thereof have thickened over the hearts of too many men, and there, beneath the love of the almighty dollar, you will find a lingering remembrance of the "Talking Bird," the "Singing Tree," and the "Golden Water," with a deeply-cherished dream, which the modern realities of steam and the telegraph have not been able entirely to smother; of romantic locomotion by means of the piece of tapestry which sailed swiftly through the air, bearing its fortunate owner wherever he wished, and of the magic wooden horse, with the pegs in his neck. And such of these fairy stories as are not too ethereal for dramatic condensation, are, as we once before observed, better represented by little children than by grosser beings of sager years.

It is in this style of dramas that the Marsh Children are calculated to particularly shine, and to achieve their greatest renown. Among them are blue-eyed and golden-haired fairies in abundance—fairies substantial enough to be visible to the eye, and their tiny voices not too delicate to be perceptible to the ears of any twenty-five-cent mortal. We truly rejoice that their managers seem to have become converted to our way of thinking, and for the present at least, to have discarded the heavier dramas. "The Naiad Queen" was played by them last week with great success, and last evening "Beauty and the Beast" was performed with even greater applause. This exquisite fairy drama, as given by these interesting juveniles, is truly a most pleasant thing to see. They are perfectly at home in it, and they act their several parts as if they thoroughly enjoyed, as no doubt they do, the whole thing. Where all are so pretty and so lovable it would not be fair to mention by name any whose characters in the drama give them unusual prominence before the audience, but it is sufficient to say that the whole piece is very beautifully performed. Parents enjoy it quite as well as the children, and all are far better pleased with their evening's entertainment than if they had seen the same little folks disguised as bandits, or doing heavy penance as misers or tobacco-chewing sailors.

Go and see them and take all the babies, all of you who desire a grateful reminiscence of your earlier days for yourselves, and an evening in which your little ones shall experience so much of unalloyed pleasure that the event shall be a bright one throughout their future lives.

And, take our advice, Messrs. Managers, stick to the fairies, thereby gratifying your patrons, and giving the young historians under your care the chance to do themselves the greatest credit.

WALLACK'S THEATRE.—This house closes this evening in a blaze of glory for the season in a complimentary benefit to Mr. L. Kates, an old sign-painter as well as of the "mannerers as they rise." We hope to see a good house on this occasion for his sake, Mr. Stuart's, the successful loss, and for the welcome it will give to Daddy Rio, the father of Negro Minstrelsy, who plays his own inimitable "Oleto" or "The Door of the Pinta."

THE DOORKEEPER AT WALLACK'S.—We notice in a

Sunday paper a paragraph to the following effect: "We trust that next season the very offensive individual who has lately acted as doorkeeper at Wallack's Theatre will be reprimanded by some one who knows how to behave himself like a civilized human being."

Mr. Lawrence Barden, the gentleman at whom these lines are aimed, is an old resident of this city, and has for the six years last past acted as doorkeeper at Wallack's Theatre and other popular places of resort. A personal acquaintance with him for several years has developed none of the "offensive" qualities so severely above referred to. On the contrary, we have ever found him so exceedingly gentlemanly and obliging that we cannot but believe that some personal pique has influenced the insertion of a paragraph which does so great injustice to an unoffending individual.

CITY ITEMS.

KANSAS.—Oliver Holden has been appointed a Commissioner of Deeds, &c., for Kansas, by Gov. Walker, and will be pleased to see the friends of Kansas at his office, No. 111 Broadway.

The Foreman of Engine Company No. 8 states that his company was not in any way concerned in the fight in Nassau street on Saturday evening, although it was at the fire.

REMARKABLE MEMORY IN A DEBTOR—A CURIOUS CASE.—In the year 1810, a young joiner, doing business on the corner of Pelham and Cherry streets, in this city, became involved in his pecuniary affairs to an extent that rendered it necessary for him to ask the indulgence of his creditors, and many of them signed a release. In the course of the following year (1811) he obtained a discharge from his debts under the State Insolvent Law, when the Hon. R. C. Van Wyck was Recorder. Shortly afterward this young joiner left the city for Cayuga, in this State, where he obtained employment for a while, at one dollar per day. Here he became acquainted with Jethro Wood, the inventor of the cast-iron plow, and for whom he then went to work, making his patterns, and erected a small iron-foundry, using a horse to drive his bellows. He then manufactured and peddled the Wood plow for about five years, at the expiration of which period he removed to Columbus, Ohio, and established himself in the plow and foundry business, which he has continued up to the present time.

During the past year he made a quantity of castings for a railroad company, in payment for which he received a draft on a firm in this city amounting to nearly \$9,000, when he resolved to carry into effect a long-cherished wish to visit the Empire City, seek out all his old creditors, if living, or some of their children. For the past fortnight he has been in the city, actively engaged in the endeavor to carry out his intentions. He, however, found but one of his old creditors living, viz: Mr. Robert Edwards of No. 387 Hudson street. On calling at the residence of that gentleman and inquiring of him if he recollected a young man by the name of Joseph Ridgeway, a joiner, who, in 1810, occupied a place in Cherry street, Mr. Edwards, who is now about eighty years of age, replied: "I have some recollection of the boy; and I believe he owed me something when he left the city, but I don't remember how much." Mr. Ridgeway, who is now seventy-four years old, then addressing himself to Mr. Edwards, said: "I was that boy; and I have now come to pay you double the amount of that debt which you refer to." He then took from his pocket and unfolded a list of his old debts, amounting in the aggregate to about \$5,000, varying in sums from \$3.50 to \$224. In liquidation of the latter indebtedness, he handed over to a living daughter of his creditor the sum of \$448; to the son of another creditor he paid \$230 in discharge of a debt of half that amount. On offering to liquidate the last amount Mr. Ridgeway was referred to an executor; whereupon he replied, "I want to see no executor; I am legally discharged from the debt; besides, your father released me, and a debt of 47 years standing must be allowed. No, I obey the law of conscience, and if any of my creditors are not living, I pay to their children the respective amounts of my indebtedness." This he has done with all whom he has been able to find; but, with the exception of Mr. Edwards, he has not found a single creditor or a representative of his old creditors who had any knowledge of Mr. Ridgeway, much less any claim against him; and in discharging these self-imposed obligations he has not in a single instance taken an acknowledgment of the fact from any one that he had paid the money to.

We would further take occasion to observe that Mr. Ridgeway has not been induced to take this honorable step in consequence of having more of this world's goods than he knows what to do with, as might be the case with others; or with a view of establishing for himself a good name among business men. On the contrary, there is a mortgage upon Mr. Ridgeway's property to the amount of \$10,000, while at his time of life, and without a family, he has no particular desire or expectation of extending his business affairs.

Mr. Ridgeway represented the Columbus district, Ohio, in Congress for six years—the last two years of Mr. Van Buren's administration, and the entire term of the Harrison and Tyler administration. It would be well for the country if they were always represented by men of Mr. Ridgeway's stamp.

A REQUESTION ON THE STREET-SPRINKLERS.—The watermen, or street-sprinklers, as they are called, were present in considerable numbers on Monday morning in the office of the Croton Aqueduct Department, having been sent for by Mr. Flanders, Water Purveyor, who has lately been very much annoyed by complaints from all sections of the city, but particularly from Fifth and Madison avenues and other upper streets, that the watermen flood the streets instead of merely endeavoring to lay the dust. It is also said that an immense quantity of water is needlessly wasted at the places of filling their hoseheads beside the hydrants. Oftentimes the driver of the cart leaves his hose to waste the Croton, to save him the trouble of screwing and unscrewing the butt. The most are fifty-two street-sprinklers in the city, and the most of them—each with his tin sprinkler in his hand, as lengthy as himself—were anxiously awaiting the inspection of the Purveyor as to whether the multitudinous punctures in their apparatus answered the ordinance upon the subject. It appeared that some did and some did not, and the delinquents were severely fined or reprimanded, according to circumstances, and left the office promising to rectify their misdeeds in future. A specific regulation applies to the tin sprinkler, as to the size and number of its openings, length, curve, &c. There is a good deal of competition in the street-sprinkling way, although the rate—three cents per hosehead—which they pay for water is generally considered high. The operator goes about at first from house to house, and contracts with the residents to sprinkle before their doors at twenty-five cents or thereabouts per week for the season. They are not allowed to sprinkle without first bringing a petition or paper to the Croton Office, signed by residents of the particular locality, signifying that the sprinkling is required. Last year the receipts at the office from this source were \$3,000, and much more water is being used this year.

THE DOGS.—The dog-days have fairly set in, and with the period we hear of many dogs going rabid in different sections, but not to the extent of former years, as near as can be ascertained. Our reporter visited the dog-pound on Saturday, and furnishes the following: The dog-pound, corner of Thirty-first street and First avenue, opened for the reception of live dogs at fifty cents per head on Wednesday, the 17th June, since which time over four thousand dogs have been apprehended and put out of the way by drowning. The pound will probably close on the 10th September. Dogs do not come in to the same extent they did on the opening of the pound. For the first two weeks the influx of canines was exceedingly large, over 300 dogs being taken in the first four days. The locality and internal arrangements of the pound are much improved to what they were last season. In place of broken-down fences and a dilapidated dog-office, with any amount of filth within the inclosure, everything now wears a neat and comfortable appearance as far as a dog pound can be supposed possible of maintaining, and no person passing would suppose that an establishment of the kind was kept there. A new pipe some ten feet in height, handsomely painted, hides the operations within from the public gaze, and a long line of suitable sheds keeps the sun and rain off the quadrupeds while they are suffering their probation in the hands of the pound-keeper.

Mr. R. W. Sampson, the same person who had charge of the pound last year, has the care of the yard. Mr. A. Connor assists Mr. S. in his duties. The former stated that a rabid dog, the first of the season which showed unmistakable symptoms of hydrophobia, was brought in a few days ago. He was picked up in one of the down-town streets, and a few minutes after being brought into the office, while the boy was getting his pay, the dog began to froth at the mouth, jerked away from the boy, snapped at the legs of the table upon which Deputy Connor had taken refuge, and finally undertook to scramble up the wall of the building, when Mr. Sampson knocked him on the head and gave him his quietus. Sometimes, he says, it is difficult for him to tell whether dogs are mad or not when they are brought in, for they are so harassed by boys and choked with strings about their necks, they cannot leave life, or if they are not mad they cannot be far from it. In the instance mentioned, the rabid state of the animal was so apparent that all concerned were afraid for their lives.

The following table shows the number of dogs received since the opening of the books on the 17th of June:

Date	No. of Dogs	Total
June 17	252	252
June 18	271	523
June 19	267	790
June 20	260	1,050
June 21	154	1,204
June 22	129	1,333
June 23	126	1,459
June 24	136	1,595
June 25	126	1,721
June 26	126	1,847
June 27	126	1,973
June 28	126	2,099
June 29	126	2,225
June 30	126	2,351
July 1	126	2,477
July 2	126	2,603
July 3	126	2,729
July 4	126	2,855
July 5	126	2,981
July 6	126	3,107
July 7	126	3,233
July 8	126	3,359
July 9	126	3,485
July 10	126	3,611
July 11	126	3,737
July 12	126	3,863
July 13	126	3,989
July 14	126	4,115
July 15	126	4,241
July 16	126	4,367
July 17	126	4,493
July 18	126	4,619
July 19	126	4,745
July 20	126	4,871
July 21	126	4,997
July 22	126	5,123
July 23	126	5,249
July 24	126	5,375
July 25	126	5,501
July 26	126	5,627
July 27	126	5,753
July 28	126	5,879
July 29	126	6,005
July 30	126	6,131
July 31	126	6,257
Total	6,257	6,257

The following is a statement of the number of dogs received during the respective dog seasons since the opening of the pound in 1831:

Year	No. of Dogs
1831	2,541
1832	2,541
1833	2,541
1834	2,541
1835	2,541
1836	2,541
1837	2,541
1838	2,541
1839	2,541
1840	2,541
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1867	2,541
1868	2,541
1869	2,541
1870	2,541
1871	2,541
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1873	2,541
1874	2,541
1875	2,541
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1889	2,541
1890	2,541
1891	2,541
1892	2,541
1893	2,541
1894	2,541
1895	2,541
1896	2,541
1897	2,541
1898	2,541
1899	2,541
1900	2,541

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1873	2,541